sanctions against South Africa

PRO. SAURIN BHATIACHARYA: "Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what prompted India to be the fist country to forsake sanction in the field of sports and games by inviting practically an all White South African Cricket Team with a racial emblem of yester years even though an eminent personality like President Mugabe, recipient of Nehru Peace Award expressed fear about reforms in South Africa because of the on going violence?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): The invitation to the South African Cricket team to tour India was in consonance with the decision taken at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Harare in October, 1991 to lift "people-to-people" sanctions immediately. The decision included lifting the sports boycott in disciplines where the appropriate sporting organisations in South Africa had been integrated non-racially and re-admitted to the relevant international governing body, particularly cricket. The decision was supported by the African National Congress. Apart from India, the other countries party to the above decision, include among others, Nigeria. Ghana. Tanzania Zimbabwe, Zambia. Botswana, Uganda, Kenya and Namibia.

It is not correct to state that the Suoth African team had a racial emblem. During its visit to India, the team did not display the erstwhile springbok emblem. The touring colours were green, gold and dark blue of the non-racial United Cricket Board of South Africa.

While the South African team, which actually played the matches was white, it also included two young non-white reserves. The team was accompanied by Mr. Krish Mackerd-huj, a South African of Indian origin, who is the President-elect of the united. Cricket Board of South Africa. Acording to South African officials, now that the UCBSA has started a coaching scheme for the non-whites, it is expected that the South African national team would contain players of all races in the near future.

The Indian Government fully shares the sentiments expressed by President Mugabe of Zimbabwe regarding the threat posed to the reform process in South Africa by the ongoing violence in black townships. In this context, the Government of India is greatly encouraged by the success of the pre-Constitutional talks held 'between the ANC, the South African Government and 18 other political parties, on November 20, 1991, which has led to a decision to convene an All Party Conference, to discuss the Constitutional future of South Africa on December 20, 1991.

India-South Africa relations

1669. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is likely to be any thaw in the Indo-South African relations as a sequel to the cricket ties;

(b) whether Government are considering the opening of consular offices or diplomatic representation in South Africa in the near future;

(c) whether the Harare Commonwealth declaration of October last calls for a phased withdrawal of sanctions against Pretoria; and

(d) if so, what is India's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) India's invitation to the South African Cricket team was in consonance with the decision taken by the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Harare in October, 1991, to lift 'people-to-peopJe'

sanctions and the sports' boycott against South Africa. At the same time, there has been no departure from India's traditional policy of whole hearted support to the Anti-apartheid Movement. In this context, the Government welcomes the success of the pre-constitutional talks held in Johannesburg on November 29, 1991, between the ANC, the South African Government and 18 other political parties. The talks resulted in dates being set for an All-Party Conference to be named as "The Convention for Democracy in South Africa, CODESA" to meet on December 20, 1991, to discuss the constitutional future.

(b) The Government is aware of its obligations towards the implementation of the Commonwealth decision to lift people to people" sanctions in-. eluding consular and visa restrictions. If it is found necessary, the Government will carefully consider the opening of consular offices. The question of diplomatic representation in South Africa will be considered, once the Government is convinced 'that- the process of dismantling apartheid has become irreversible. -

.(c). Yes, Sir. While the Harare Commonwealth, Summit decided that "people-to people" sanctions be lifted immediately, it recommended that "economic sanctions, including trade - and investment measures, should be lifted when appropriate transitional mechanism have been agreed which ... would enable all the parties to parti cipate fully and effectively in negoti ations." Further, Financial sanctions should be lifted "only when agree ment is reached, on the text of a new democratic constitution, unless a con. trary recommendation is made by " agreement at the proposed All Party Conference, or by an Interim Gov- eminent." Finally, the Commonwealth Summit" decided that the "arms embargo 'should remain in force un til a new post-apartheid South Afri can Government is firmly establish ed,-.,". '

(d) India is a party to be above decisions.

तिब्बत के मामले में भारत का दृष्टिकोण

1670. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) तिब्बत को स्वतंत्रता दिए जाने के मामले में भारत सरकार का दृष्टिकोण क्या है ;

(ख) इस समय भारत में कितने तिब्बती बसे हुए हैं ; और

(ग) वे मुख्यतया कहां-कहां बसे हुये हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री माधवसिंह सोलंकी) : (क) तिब्बत के संबंध में सरकार की नीति बराबर एक सी रही है और सुविदित है । सरकार तिब्बत को चीन का एक स्वायत्त क्षेत्र मानती है ।

(ख) इस समय भारत में बसे तिब्बती शरणार्थियों की संख्या 68,639 है ।

(ग) तिब्बती शरणार्थी मुख्यतया हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश, जम्मू और कश्मीर तथा कर्नाटक में बसे हैं ।

Jakhai's Dubai visit

1671. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL. AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Hindu dated of 14th November, 1991 under the caption "Ministry calls Jakhar's Dubai stopover an official visit"; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Agriculture Minister visited Dubai in United Arab Emirates on November 14-16, 1991 for promotion